THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Eleventh Plan has not been finalized. A substantial expansion in higher educational institutions and quality enhancement is envisaged in the Eleventh Plan, including setting up of a Central University in each State, such as Tamil Nadu, which does not have a Central University at present.

Supreme Court bench in the South

2816. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4184, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th May, 2007 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up the matter of setting up of a bench of Supreme Court in South again with the Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to bring an amendment to the Constitution in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The matter of setting up of a Bench of Supreme Court in other parts of the country was taken up again with the Supreme Court for its reconsideration. The Supreme Court informed that after reconsideration of the matter, the Full Court, in its meeting held on 7th August, 2007 found no justification for deviating from its earlier resolution on the subject and did not favour setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. The Government do not propose to bring an amendment to the Constitution.

Issue of voters' identity cards

2817. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to issue electors' identity cards to all the citizens of the country;

(b) if so, the number of voters covered so far and supplied with the identity cards, State-wise; and

(c) by when the remaining citizens are likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement showing the number of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) issued in various States/Union Territories provided by the Election Commission of India is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(c) It has been the endeavour of the Election Commission to achieve 100% coverage under the EPIC scheme, as far as practicable, in a time bound manner. Even though efforts have been constantly made to cover all the electors under the EPIC scheme, various reasons such as natural calamities, engagement of administrative machinery to works other than election work and apathy of voters themselves are some of the reasons why the progress has been uneven.

Statement

Status for the progress of Elector Photo Identity Card

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Total General Electors w.r.t. 01-01-2006 roll	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards	% of EPIC Issued (Column 3 and 4)	EPIC report upto
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh%^^	49,848,636	35,278,198	70.77	March, 2007
2	Arunachal Pradesh**	672,916	160,094	23.79	March, 2007
3	Assam #	17,410,558	0	0.00	March, 2007
4	Bihar $	51,478,648	30,641,377	59.52	March, 2007
5	Chhattisgarh	13,999,848	4,850,000	34.64	March, 2007
6	Goa^^	1,010,207	764,774	75.70	March, 2007
7	Gujarat^^	36,470,548	25,100,000	68.82	March, 2007
8	Haryana	12,123,645	10,854,503	89.53	March, 2007
9	Himachal Pradesh	4,543,024	2,918,344	64.24	March, 2007
10	Jammu and Kashmir	6,284,658	4,276,715	68.05	March, 2007
11	Jharkhand	17,873,713	8,409,060	47.05	March, 2007
12	Karnataka^^	41,610,955	32,069,242	77.07	March, 2007
13	Kerala^^	20,929,146	20,929,146	100.00	March, 2007
14	Madhya Pradesh	38,446,833	28,473,060	74.06	March, 2007
15	Maharashtra	66,438,515	45,392,934	68.32	March, 2007
16	Manipur ## and ^^	1,701,410	763,481	44.87	March, 2007
17	Meghalaya	1,339,181	709,309	52.97	March, 2007
18	Mizoram	565,094	477,099	84.43	March, 2007
19	Nagaland ###	1,268,359	576,725	45.47	March, 2007

1	2	3	4	5	6
20	Orissa ^^	27,235,112	19,661,504	72.19	March, 2007
21	Punjab ^^	16,859,720	15,693,997	93.09	March, 2007
22	Rajasthan^^	34,800,000	27,800,000	79.89	March, 2007
23	Sikkim ^^	305,992	222,766	72.80	March, 2007
24	Tamil Nadu	46,304,764	44,800,000	96.75	March, 2007
25	Tripura ^^	2,005,704	1,871,552	93.31	March, 2007
26	Uttar Pradesh^^	1,134,000,00	913,000,00	80.51	March, 2007
27	Uttarakhand^^	5,961,350	5,303,710	88.97	March, 2007
28	West Bengal	48,112,642	46,630,101	96.92	March, 2007
29	A and N Islands ^^	243,188	214,241	88.10	March, 2007
30	Chandigarh	572,662	402,304	70.25	March, 2007
31	D and N Haveli^^	133.250	95.645	71.78	March, 2007
32	Daman and Diu	88,263	60,447	68.49	March, 2007
33	Lakshadweep^^	40,241	37,617	93.48	March, 2007
34	NCT of Delhi ^^	10,123,095	6,262,840	61.87	March, 2007
35	Puducherry ^^	711,595	711,595	100.00	March, 2007
	TOTAL:	690913472	513712380	74.35	

**Except Data of elector of AC No. 4, 46, 49 & 50 in Arunachal Pradesh.

In the first phase in 1996-97, total 67,479 EPICs were prepared but not distributed. The issue of EPIC programme is currently not underway in Assam.

$ Data of Electors *w.r.t.* 1-1-2007 roll except 6 ACs Where final publication is due;

^^Data of Elector *w.r.t.* 1-1-2007 roll.

A total of 1033733 EPICs were issued for the photography done till 1997. As per the survey conducted by the Dy Commissioners 90% of them are not available with the electors owing to Snatching away of EPICs by the underground elements.

In Nagaland the EPIC % dropped down from 57.06% to 45.47% after Intensive Revision *w.r.t.* 1-1-2005 % Except Hyderabad where EPIC programme is in progress.

Removal of Supreme Court judges

2818. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed National Judicial Council would be empowered to recommend the removal of any Supreme Court judge, found guilty of misdemeanour after a probe at the instance of a citizen's complaint or a reference by the Parliament;

(b) whether any citizen can single-handedly request for a probe by the NJC against an erring Judge whereas a reference by the Parliament for a probe needs